

The Renegade Rip

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BAKERSFIELD COLLEGE

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Annual 'Via Arte' artists chalk up

By Christina Benavides
Reporter

Hundreds gathered for The Bakersfield Museum of Art's 19th Annual Via Arte Italian Street Painting Festival on Oct. 22.

The event was held from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the parking lot of the Marketplace located at 9000 Ming Avenue. Spectators walked around admiring the chalk artwork on the asphalt while live music and entertainment play.

Sponsorships allowed professional and student artists from local high schools to showcase their artistic abilities. There was a range of artwork featuring movie characters, Greek mythology, Mexican culture, and replications of famous art work such as the painting "The Scream."

Artist, Kathryn Ramos, 50, spoke about the mosaic stained glass artwork she created that day.

"It is always a challenge to replicate what is in my head," Ramos said.

Despite the challenges she faces, she believes her participation gives her a chance to do what she loves to do and shares her art with the community.



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

Stockdale High School student Eesha Sohail smiles as she works on her chalk art piece at the local 'Via Arte' event.

She mentioned that she had been participating in Via Arte for only eight years, but has been professionally creating art for 35 years. Ramos also is an acrylic artist, and has her art available

online on her website kathrynramos.com, along with background on the artwork she sells.

Not only were professional and student artists able to get artistic, there was also a section



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

Frank Cowper's "Vanity" piece being recreated on asphalt with chalk by artist April Martinez at the annual "Via Arte" chalk art event held in The Marketplace parking lot.

in the parking lot for kids and their families. Families were able to engage in the festivities by choosing from a variety of chalks, and picking their canvas slot on the asphalt.

This year, Via Arte had 10 award winners under categories such as People's Choice Award, Best Technique, Best Visiting Artist, Best Use of Color, Best Rendition and many more.

All the raised proceeds from the event will be going to the Bakersfield Museum of Arts which has helped and been involved in keeping this tradition going in Bakersfield since 1998.

Bakersfield Fire Department speaks about fire prevention

By Melissa Puryear
Reporter

With the recent wildfires that ravaged Northern California's landscape, causing deaths and significant destruction of property, fire prevention is an important topic to cover.

Although Bakersfield is "vulnerable to wildfire in the urban interface area," according to Deputy Chief Tyler Hartley from fire station #8, "it is unlikely we would experience the total devastation seen in Napa California this year." Hartley said that there are enough local deployable resources to contain a fire in the event of "local-wind driven fire events." It is not out of the question, though, that Bakersfield could experience "multi-structural loss" involving shake-shingle roofs in older neighborhoods.

Hartley, an experienced fire instructor with 29 years of experience with fire service, manages fire station #8, which is across the street from Bakersfield College and is the first responder for emergencies at BC.

"Fires are driven by three factors: fuel, topography, and weather," according to Hartley. Bakersfield topography is predominantly flat, except for Northeast Bakersfield where the topography "could enhance fire-spread." High winds present dangerous conditions for fire fighters.

Hartley says that the Cottonwood Fire on Oct. 9 was driven by high-velocity winds that resulted in the loss of structures, livestock and property on flat topography. Therefore, there are dangers of fire-spread when wind is introduced, regardless of any location in Bakersfield.

The majority of fires are preventable, though, according to Hartley. Most of the fires in Bakersfield are not "weather-related, but human related."

In fact, "50.8 percent of fires reported are caused by cooking,"



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Firefighter Bill Ballard climbs out of a fire engine after demonstrating the routine of responding to a fire call.

Hartley said.

Home heating fires fall under the second most reported fires, according to John Frando, the Bakersfield Fire Department's Public Information Officer. Frando advises people to make sure that portable heating units have at least a 3-foot clearance from anything that might catch on fire, such as drapes. He also advised to make sure that it has an automatic shut-off feature in case it is ever tipped over by children or pets.

Other factors, which fall below

the 10.8 percent threshold, include heating, electrical malfunctioning, open flames like candles, arson, appliances, smoking, and children that play with heat sources.

"We believe that most fires can be prevented, and the Bakersfield Fire Department dedicates a lot of time to public education," Hartley said.

To protect your home and property, Hartley advised that "proper clearance around

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Local women use #MeToo

By Jenny Brito
Reporter

Women from all over the world have been posting the #MeToo on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to signify their struggles with sexual assault and harassment. What once was considered taboo has now given them back the power they felt was lost.

The movement gained popularity after recent allegations of sexual assault against Harvey Weinstein. After the first woman spoke out against him, many others began to do the same. As of now, there are dozens of women accusing Weinstein of

inappropriate behavior, sexual harassment, and sexual assault.

Many women, including celebrities, took notice of the controversy and decided to do something. Actress Alyssa Milano tweeted on Oct. 15 asking survivors of sexual assault and harassment to post the #MeToo after seeing one of her friends doing so.

After the actress brought attention to the campaign, millions of women decided to speak up. Social media was soon filled with posts of females who had been sexually abused. Several Congress women have recently joined the cause and shared their experiences with others on so-

cial media.

Alyssa Milano is being praised as the female who started the movement. However, the movement is not new. In reality, it was initiated 10 years ago by a black female activist named Tarana Burke.

Burke launched #MeToo as a grassroots movement, and the purpose was to give a voice to women who had been affected by sexual assault, violence, harassment, and exploitation in underprivileged communities that did not have access to counseling or rape crisis centers.

In Bakersfield, dozens of females have also decided to speak

Please see #METOO Page 7

Bill AB424 makes KHSD gun free

By Ambria King
Photo Editor

Beginning Jan. 1, 2018, California State Assembly Bill AB 424, an update to California's Gun Free School Zones law which prevents anyone from possessing or carrying a firearm while on a school campus, will take effect.

California state law already prevents the possession of firearms in school zones, but school superintendents and those authorized to act on their behalf currently hold the authority to provide written permission for teachers and other school employees who hold a concealed carry permit (CCW) to carry a firearm while on campus, as

enacted under Senate Bill SB 707. AB 424 removes that authority and bans anyone, with the exception of duly appointed peace officers and armed security guards, from bringing a firearm onto California school campuses. The bill also makes exceptions for school sanctioned sports and activities such as trap shooting, skeet shooting, and the shooting of sporting clays.

Governor Jerry Brown approved the bill, which passed in California's state assembly with a vote of 43-23, on Oct. 14.

The Kern High School District (KHSD) and its superintendent, Byron Shaefer, made waves in Bakersfield back in June when board members voted 4-0 to approve the policy of allowing

those employed by the KHSD who hold a CCW to bring guns onto all KHSD campuses, as long as they had written permission from Shaefer, as allowed under SB 707. AB 424 will also override that decision, making the KHSD a gun-free zone once again, as of Jan 1.

The passing of AB 424 will have little effect on Bakersfield College, which is already a weapon-free campus. According to the BC website, "State law and College policy prohibit the possession or use of weapons on College property. It is a felony punishable by up to four years in prison to possess any firearm on College property, whether in a book bag, in the car, or in an office, or classroom."

ONLINE

Answer the Renegade Rip's Poll online

Do you think more members of the Trump Administration should be indicted for allegedly colluding with Russia?

www.therip.com

The Office of Financial Aid holds a booth at the Health Connections Fair for scholarships

By Melissa Puryear
Reporter

A group of radiology students, gathered at the Office of Financial Aid booth on campus, during the Health Connections Fair on Oct. 5, to discuss financial aid and scholarships.

Some students were asked questions by financial aid office representatives about whether they had applied for scholarships. One student said that he was "too lazy" to apply.

Whether students feel intimidated by the scholarship process, or feel it's too complicated, find themselves too busy, or are apathetic about it, the fact remains that there are many scholarships going unrewarded to deserving students.

The Bakersfield College scholarship process is in fact simple enough that taking a few minutes to go to its website could be a valuable tool towards next year's college expenses. Not applying for scholarships comes at a financial loss to the student, which only comes around once a year from Oct. 1 to Dec. 1.

According to Tom Gelder, the Executive Director of the Bakersfield College Foundation, the reason many students might not apply for scholarships is because they are unaware of these scholarships, they do not want to be troubled with having to apply for them, or they might assume they do not qualify.

Elizabeth Nolin, 33, who is a

radiology technologist student, said that she has never applied for scholarships. She pointed out that "lack of time," and "just procrastinating," are the two reasons she has not applied.

Nolin was under the impression that she would have to go into the financial aid office to research the scholarships that were available to her, however upon learning that she could research this online, she said that she would go online to fill out the application and was excited about the possibility of free educational money for next semester.

Francis Hernandez, 28, another radiology technologist, who will be graduating in May, applied for scholarships last year. She said that the process for applying for scholarships was "very easy." She had said she had learned about the scholarship benefits from one of her professors and she ended up qualifying.

The Bakersfield College foundation is instrumental in providing these students scholarship opportunities. They work directly with donors to pinpoint what type of scholarship the donors would like to create for BC students.

Donors set the parameters of the scholarship, such as income-based needs and GPA requirements. Sometimes, the donor requires very minimal requirements of the student in order to be awarded the scholarship. Once the student submits an ap-

plication, the Bakersfield College Foundation may serve as the selection committee. When the applicant meets all of the criteria, the committee then chooses what applicants to award the scholarship to. Sometimes it is the donor who chooses the recipient of their scholarship.

The foundation adds scholarships continually to its program, as donors contact them with a desire to help BC students. Gelder pointed to some of the scholarship opportunities available.

He said that the Levans established The Kern Promise program that allows those who enroll as full-time students, who have an incoming cumulative grade of 2.6, and have an education plan in place, can receive up to \$2,000 a year for the two years if a student is "in the Promise."

There are even unique scholarships, such as "Radar the Wonder Dog Memorial," awarded for students majoring in Animal Science.

Some scholarships pertain to female students pursuing an Art degree.

The Donna Litherland Memorial Scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship which is awarded to a full-time Art Program or Humanities student.

There are also scholarships for students who are first generation students, where neither parent has attended college.

The First-Generation Scholarship of \$500 is awarded to students who transfer to a four-year



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Bakersfield College radiology students talk to financial aid reps at an Office of Financial Aid booth on campus during the Health Connections Fair held on Oct. 5.

institution, have at least a 2.5 GPA, and have a high financial need.

One student who was a nursing major received a \$7,000 scholarship, according to Gelder, who said there are quite a few "sizeable scholarships" being offered.

Understanding the nature of the scholarship process and the availability of money that awaits students, might help dispel myths students have about scholarships.

Gelder said that they have an

"auto-match" system in the Academic Works program – an online database that shows a brief description of the scholarship and its donor information. Once a student goes to the financial aid website, and accesses this program they will be prompted to fill out the general questionnaire.

A very compelling feature of the software system that makes finding scholarships a lot simpler, according to Gelder, is the ability to put in keywords to search for scholarships that might apply to a student's degree

path. For example, "nursing has 15 scholarships, with one scholarship giving out \$3,000 to the student," said Gelder.

Dec. 1 is the deadline for the scholarship application submission. Students are required to fill out a FASFA application but do not necessarily need to be FASFA eligible to receive a scholarship.

For a list of available scholarships or for more information on how to receive financial aid go to www.kccd.academicworks.com.

AECOM to partner with BC for Measure J bond

By Alexandra Apatiga
Reporter

Bakersfield College faculty met at the Levan Center on Oct. 25 to discuss the future of the campus using Measure J – a \$503 million bond to construct new buildings and renovate the more than 60-year-old campus.

The Measure J and Facilities Master Planning meeting included BC President Sonya Christian, Maintenance and Operations Director Bill Potter, Kern Community College District Chancellor Tom Burke, Trustee Bill Thomas, as well as several representatives of various departments across campus from STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) to agriculture.

Also at the master planning was AECOM-Parsons, a partnership between AECOM, a management and networking firm, and Parsons, an engineering, technical, construction, and professional service firm, who will be working with BC along with various other local firms.

The plan presented at the meeting will be undergoing review by the Facilities and Sustainability Committee, the BC College Council, and the KCCD Board of Trustees between January and May of 2018. Following review and approval, with the assistance of AECOM on management and Parsons on construction, large-scale projects will begin construction.

Some of the projects included are a Science and Engineering building, a Veterans Resource



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

AECOM Vice Principal speaks to BC faculty on AECOM-Parsons' role with Measure J construction.

Center, a Public Safety Instruction building, an ABC/Campus Center, a satellite campus for Arvin and a possible parking structure.

According to AECOM Vice Principal and PMCM Regional Business Line Leader Domingo Camarano, the current plan is to begin construction as early as 2018, with two to five projects beginning construction every following year.

During the presentation, Christian expressed her excitement and hope for BC's future.

"It is crucial that everyone involved in this endeavor is engaged, efficient, and effective, both during the planning and revising process and during construction."

She went on in placing her confidence in AECOM-Parsons and their skills as a firm capable of taking on such a large project.

Christian said, "With all of us working together, we can turn Bakersfield College into a better institution for our students for decades to come."

Las Vegas shooting victims get help from Bakersfield

By Jenny Brito
Reporter

Bakersfield law enforcement, radio, and TV stations teamed up for the Bakersfield Together fundraiser on Oct. 18 at the Fox Theater to benefit local victims of the Las Vegas massacre and their families.

The shooting took the lives of five people from Kern County, and it left many others wounded. To help the families of the victims, organizers recommended that people donate \$20 at the door although it was not required.

In addition, a local couple made orange remembrance ribbons which were sold for \$0.99 apiece. All proceeds from the ribbons went to the Kelsey Meadows Scholarship Fund. Meadows was a teacher at Taft Union High School and was killed in the shooting.

Matt Pelishek, from radio station Life FM 88.3, said that he proposed the event to other stations in hopes of doing something selfless for the victims. He asked them to do something good without thinking about ratings and competition.

The evening began with a moment of silence to honor the victims followed by words from Bakersfield Mayor Karen Goh.

"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words, and that which cannot remain silenced," Goh said as she thanked attendees for coming out in support of those who could have been their neighbors.



JENNY BRITO / THE RIP

Aaron Perlman from Eyewitness News performs on stage.

Radio stations such as Krab Radio and Energy 95.3 helped make the event possible. Radio hosts including Danny Hill from 95.3 shared their impressions of the impact that the shooting had locally. Hill said that people should be careful, but never stop living their lives.

Tim Calahan, anchor for 23ABC News, added that one of the most difficult things to hear when he covered the tragedy was that people from Kern County were killed. This motivated him even more to honor those individuals.

Members of local police and highway patrol were in attendance as well. Many of them used the opportunity to offer support to those affected as well as remind the community that

the primary goal of law enforcement is to protect them.

"We want you to know that law enforcement stands with you. We support you. The very existence of the California Highway Patrol is to save lives," said Captain Ron Seldon, of the California Highway Patrol.

Aaron Perlman and Kristen Powers, anchors for Eyewitness News, and local bands Stereo Citizen and Truxton Mile took the stage to honor those who perished in the attack. They performed Christian songs and other uplifting ballads.

Those who could not attend Bakersfield Together can still donate on the website of the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation or by purchasing Route 91 ribbons on Etsy.

Kern County cities placed in top 10 of most robocalls across the US

By Melissa Puryear
Reporter

Bakersfield residents, and outlying communities within the 661-area code, were under siege in the month of August, as robocalls (companies that use an auto-dialer to place calls to landlines and cellular phones) skyrocketed, placing Kern County communities amongst the top-10 listed cities across America

for robocalls, while California residents received more of these calls than any other state in the nation.

Statistics were compiled by YouMail Robocall Index™, which tracks, records and disseminates caller information and provides services that "stops robocalls with its highly accurate caller ID and smart blocking technology, ... 8.9 million robocalls were placed to area code

661 in August 2017, equaling roughly 7.8 calls per person affected."

Kern County residents were inundated with call after call, especially from credit card debt bill collectors, for companies Citibank, Synchrony Financial, and Capital One, to retail debt collection for Best Buy, car loan spammers from Santander car financing, and home security sales, to free electricity utility

scams, air conditioning telemarketers, and prison inmates.

"These worst offenders," are not just calling the 661 area, but are also calling other regions across the nation.

By downloading the app on cell phones, even landlines are protected as robocallers receive a message that the number they are trying to reach is out of service, essentially fooling the automated caller, which makes the robocalls

stop, according to YouMail Robocall Index™.

With Kern County consumers at the mercy of companies or individuals behind these flagged telephone numbers, some of whom prey upon unsuspecting residents, unaware that Kern County is being affected by unscrupulous telephone etiquette, and spam and scam behavior, Alex Quillici, CEO of YouMail Robocall Index™, provides

some helpful measures. These tips take aim at reducing the likelihood of being the victim of relentless robocalls which can lead to being scammed.

"Don't pick up calls from a number you don't recognize," instead allow voicemail to take the call. This "Invisibility is the best defense ..." Quillici said. He also recommends using software products that "block unwanted callers and scammers."

Chelsey Williams plays in Bakersfield

By Karla Gutierrez
Reporter

Chelsea Williams, who's a singer songwriter, had a concert on Oct. 20 at the Temblor Brewing Company in Bakersfield where she performed songs from her newest album "Boomerang."

"I have this new record that just came out that is called 'Boomerang.' On this record, it was a lot of personal experiences. It was written in the period of seven years. It's a lot of different things that happened to me over the seven years. Like getting signed by a major label and then I left the major label and quit music for a couple of years and wrote songs about quitting music and wrote songs about me discovering music," said Williams.

Williams always loved music from a very young age. Her mother used to remind her of when they would be at the fair and she would run to the stage at the age of three. She started playing music around the age of 10 when she took piano lessons. She's acquired those skills for the past 20 years.

Williams has been playing music at the mall on 3rd Street Promenade Santa Monica for more than a decade.

"I have been playing music for a couple of years and working odd jobs like being a math tutor or working for a telemarketing job, and I was fed up to working odd jobs. I was determined to find a way to make some money as a musician. Especially in Los Angeles, it's hard to find gigs that actually pay because a lot of times you have to pay the venue to play. So I just decided to try my hand on playing on the street and it ended up working out," said Williams.

Williams mentions that she's always been influenced by a singer songwriter type of music. For example, she grew up listening to Neil Young, Bob Dylan, Sheryl Crow, etc. They have always been an influence on her.

"When I'm writing I don't try to write a certain style. I just write whatever comes out. I guess that's dictated by my influences," said Williams.

This is the biggest tour that Williams has done. She's done small tours, but this one is very nationwide. One of her favorite parts about touring is meeting people from all over the country that she believes she never would have met before. She loves that she gets to meet the people that have been loving her music for

the past years.

"Being part of the Maroon 5 music video, 'Daylight', was a cool experience. It was a project put together by a group called 'Playing for Change' and they do a lot of music videos like that where they get street performers from all over the world. Like they would go to Africa and India and they record them playing one song and then they put it all together into one recording. So that's what they did with the 'Daylight' video. They came to 3rd Street Promenade and recorded me there, but they did not tell me that Adam Levine would be singing on it," said Williams.

When asked about some of her future aspirations, Williams said, "I would love to see where music takes me. I'd love to travel nationally. I'd love to do music for film. I actually, at some point in my life, I would like to start a foundation for kids to teach music in school or teach music to kids that wouldn't normally get to experience that. Because they're cutting music programs in public schools, and I would love to at some point get involved in that."

Some of the artists that she would love to play with are Fiona Apple and Sheryl Crow. One of



KARLA GUTIERREZ / THE RIP

Chelsey Williams performing her new song 'Don't Want To Die Alone' from her new album Boomerang.

her first concerts happened in a coffee shop in North Hollywood. She mentions that she hardly remembers it because she was very nervous and blacked it out.

"I still get nervous to this day depending on the gig. I think the best things in life are on the other side of your greatest fear. I'm a huge believer in confronting your fears and I had a lot of stage fright as a kid, but I loved music and wanted to do it so I just did anyway. I think persistence is important. If you are afraid of it,

but you want to do it. Just do it anyway and you will maybe always be afraid, but you will learn how to deal with it. Some of the best advice that I ever got was if you have a dream, don't give it up and persist. Just keep going and be yourself. Find something that's unique about yourself and enhance that part of yourself and focus on that. Just do what you love to do as much as you can because that's how you get good at anything is just by doing it," said Williams.

Games create friendship

Video Game Culture:
From a veteran's perspective

Video games bring many different kinds of people together.

There are many different communities that have been created by gamers. There are so many that it is hard to get an understanding of how many there are.

One of the groups of gamers I am familiar with is Steam groups.

Steam is a program on computers that is used to buy games and play with friends. The group system that is on steam has so many people connected by different ways.

The official "Payday 2" steam group has accumulated over 5 million users to be in the group.

The group gives out free in-game items for people to join it and also gives out news concerning the development of the game and new content that is being added.

I was once in a Steam group when I was 12 and 13 years old. The group was made from a person that was hosting servers for many games.

I remember the games that the group had servers on were on the games "Garry's Mod," "Team Fortress 2," and "Minecraft."

I remember joining a random server on "Garry's Mod" and I met this person that I would spend most of my time playing video games with. The server was a part of this steam group and I joined it because I wanted to play more with this person.

I met so many new people through that steam group and it was one of the first times in my life greeting new people and learning from all the different perspectives from around the world.

There was this person from the United Kingdom where we played through "Portal 2" when it first came out.

There are also communities based around streamers on Twitch. Twitch is a streaming service that people live record themselves playing video games.

People that go to a stream can chat and interact with the person streaming and other people that are also watching the stream.

Streamers usually will have a Discord server that people can join.

My friend invited me to join a Discord server of one of these streamers for a video game that we were both playing. I have met many new people through this Discord server, and I now spend every day talking to these people.

There are also communities of gamers that I have not taken part of.

YouTube is a website for streaming videos that anyone can make of nearly anything. People can comment on these videos and the most subscribed channel on YouTube is someone who makes videos of them playing video games.

There are also online forums that are somewhat outdated, but there are still plenty of people that use them today.

Back when I was in that Steam group, there was a forum website dedicated to the group where anyone could join it.

I remember just sitting on those forums talking to people for hours at a time.

Gamers are brought together in many ways over the internet. The amount of communities is incomprehensible for even me to understand because of how big it is.



Brandon Cowan

Masquerade Ball held at Campus Center

By Brandon Cowan
Web Editor

With at least 100 people attending the second annual Masquerade Ball at Bakersfield college, people from Kern County were encouraged to attend the costume-themed event described by flyers as, "A fun & safe family event for all ages in Kern County to enjoy dancing, sweet treats, and games."

The event was hosted at the Campus Center on BC's campus on Oct. 27.

There were many booths that were handing out candy for playing games. One of those booths was made by the Engineers Club.

Joshua Fernando, 21, is the president of the Engineers Club and was there because he said, "I want to help out the school."

Fernando said that he has at-

tended BC for four years being full-time and part-time.

He also said, "I really love to build. ... Getting people involved in the club, doing that kind of stuff, building with your hands and trying to build a community really helps yourself in the major because it is undoubtedly tough."

The booth that Fernando and his fellow club members made is a game to slingshot a yoga-sized ball at boxes that are stacked up and to hand out free candy.

The Escape Bus was also at the Masquerade Ball and in the flyers that were handed out to students before the event took place said The Escape Bus is, "Similar to escape rooms, work together, user your surroundings, and outsmart the bus if you ever want to see the light of day again."

The BC cafeteria was turned



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Volunteer Belinda Lopez Rickett at the Masquerade Ball spray paints Jeremy Randall's hair a variety of colors.

into a dance room where students could grab food and

drinks. Students could also sit down or dance to enjoy the mu-

sic being played by a DJ.

Jack Saba, 21, has been inside the dance room, but did not dance because there was no one else dancing at the time.

Saba plans to complete his political science degree and then use it as a pathway to become a law student.

Saba is a part of the Japanese Culture Club and was helping with the booth that the club had made.

The booth had two games in which people could grab candy out of a container with chopsticks, or could try to grab a balloon filled with water with a rubber band attached to the top out of a bucket of water.

Dezi Von Manos, the Student Government Association president was also there to hand out candy to people that were attending the event.

BC celebrates Latina Empowerment Day in Fireside Room

By Jenny Brito
Reporter

Hosted by the Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) with the goal of helping females expand their leadership abilities, the Latina Empowerment Day was held on Oct. 27 at the Fireside Room at Bakersfield College.

The event began with remarks by Belinda Barragan, who is the Programs and Policy Director of HOPE. She went over the agenda for the day and introduced the first of several Latina leaders who would be sharing their insights with the audience.

Gabriela Mello took the stage next. She is the Vice President and Community Relations Consultant at Wells Fargo. She is an advocate for better opportunities for Latinas in business and supports those who decide to start local small businesses.

"The magic number here is 500. There are 500 Latinas receiving leadership training such as this throughout California,"

Mello said. She added that attending leadership training is key to becoming an influencer in the community.

After the opening remarks, females played the Energy and Environment game which was designed to help them understand how Cap and Trade works in California to achieve Greenhouse Gas Emissions reduction goals.

The game was followed by a discussion of the ways in which leaders can give back. Barragan guided teams in determining how to allocate funds to better their community. Some suggested investing in education while others wanted to create sustainable communities.

The next speaker was Gabriela Gonzales, the President of Latinas Leaders of Kern County. She talked about her organization and how they have been able to empower Latinas.

Lunch was followed by talks about financial health. Latinas were told to get smarter about credit and secure a retirement



JENNY BRITO / THE RIP

From left to right: Carmen Ruiz, Jhoana Granados, and Briana Rodriguez play a bidding game.

plan regardless of their age. For good credit, advisors recommended paying down high-interest rates first and paying more than the minimum monthly payment.

Monica Arias, Wells Fargo's Work Program Manager, shared tips for females who were interested in saving money to start a business. She emphasized the importance of saving money and explained that even putting 5 to 10% of one's monthly income

aside can help.

"It doesn't take a big change to make a big change," Arias added as females raised their hands to ask questions. Prompted by a question, she recommended that everyone reviews insurance annually because they could be paying more for services they do not need.

The last speaker for the day was Noelia Sanchez, Digital Brand Strategist, who helped Latinas become better negotiators.

She explained that even those who were not leaders could benefit from understanding the dynamics of effective negotiation.

Barragan concluded the conference by reminding Latinas of the impact they can have on their communities.

"We see more and more Latinas at the table making important decisions about money, environment, and health-related topics," she said.

In addition to the workshops, Latinas of Kern County had opportunities to get to know each other and exchange business cards so that they could stay connected in the future. Carmen Ruiz, a small business owner, said that the conference was a great way to network.

The Latina Empowerment Day began at 8:30 a.m. and ended at 3 p.m. The event is held by the HOPE Leadership Institute (HLI) every year in different cities throughout California. The institute is the only statewide leadership program that targets professional Latinas specifically.

CALM hosts Halloween event and gives out candy to the attendees

By Jenny Brito
Reporter

Boo at the Zoo, hosted by the California Living Museum (CALM) on Oct. 21 and 22, had adults and children trick-or-treating as they made their way around the zoo.

The zoo was decorated with creepy skeletons hanging from trees and inflatable ghosts and dragons in the green areas. There were dozens of pumpkins being sold for \$2 at the event. Spiders,

goblins, and bats were part of the imagery as well.

Event organizers encouraged guests of all ages to wear costumes and spend the day with the animals. A few adult witches and a Harry Potter wizard were present, but the little ones dressed the most elaborate costumes.

Some of the children dressed up as princesses and knights while others chose to honor members of the U.S. Army. There were also astronauts, superheroes, and even Santa Claus

made an appearance on Sunday.

Patrons visited all the exhibits at CALM. Also, children participated in different activities to win candy. "Fish the Candy" was a favorite for those looking for treats. Children were given a fishing rod that they used to get candy hidden inside a makeshift pool.

Stephanie Blaylock, a mother of two, said that her children had been waiting for the event for weeks. "The wait was definitely worth it," she added.

In addition to treats, the zoo featured several wildlife presentations and animal encounters. Children got a chance to take pictures and manipulate a snake at the Reptile House while others chose to watch Pebbles the porcupine taking a nap.

Some animals including the bears and ducks received a jack-o-lantern stuffed with their favorite treats. By Sunday afternoon, little was left inside the lanterns.

There were plenty of options for children and parents alike.

The Condor Challenge Climbing Tower, which costs \$35 on regular days, was free. Rides on the Central California Children's Railroad were also available for a dollar.

Food was provided by Hunsaker Bros and Carnie Corn. Families took breaks to have hot dogs, nachos, ice cream, and funnel cakes.

Boo at the Zoo is held annually. The next event scheduled by CALM is the Holiday Lights which begins on Dec. 1.

Theater plays silent film with live music

By Alexandra Apatiga
Reporter

The Fox Theater held a special screening of the original 1925 silent version of “The Phantom of the Opera” for one day only on Oct. 22. The film featured an authentic, fully restored 1909 hand-cranked projector and live organ music, and allowed people, both young and old, to experienced this horror movie classic.

A film adaption of Gaston Leroux’s 1910 novel “Le Fantôme de l’Opéra,” the horror film was directed by Rupert Julian and distributed by Universal Pictures. Featuring Lon Chaney as Erik, the infamous Phantom of the Paris Opera house, who manipulates and captures opera singer Christine Daaé (Mary Philbin) in an attempt to win her affections.

Joe Rinaudo, a silent film historian, preservationist, and founder of the Silent Cinema Society, travels to different theaters, museums, and organizations, giving audiences an authentic experience similar to that of viewing a movie in the early 1900’s. Along with his organist Dean Mora, who plays live music for their silent films,

Rinaudo provides his services to help raise awareness and an appreciation for silent cinema.

According to Rinaudo, this version of the 1925 silent version of “The Phantom of the Opera” has only been seen by a handful of people in its entirety.

“Silent black and white films are a unique art form that has been swept away by time and modern day sound films,” said Rinaudo. “My hope for younger generations is that they give these films the credit they deserve, as a true art form where actors had a different style of acting and films had to get creative with how they were made.”

“What people forget is that you don’t have to have sound or spoken dialogue to make a film entertaining or engaging,” explained Rinaudo.

Many in the audience also seemed to agree with Rinaudo’s ideas about silent films. Stella Queenhalgh, a resident of Bakersfield for 47 years and a frequent visitor at the Fox Theater, expressed how entertaining and remarkable “The Phantom of the Opera” was.

“I have never seen anything quite like this,” shared Queen-

halgh, “and it pleases me to see so many different people coming to the Fox Theater, enjoying themselves and learning about our history and how far we’ve come with entertainment.”

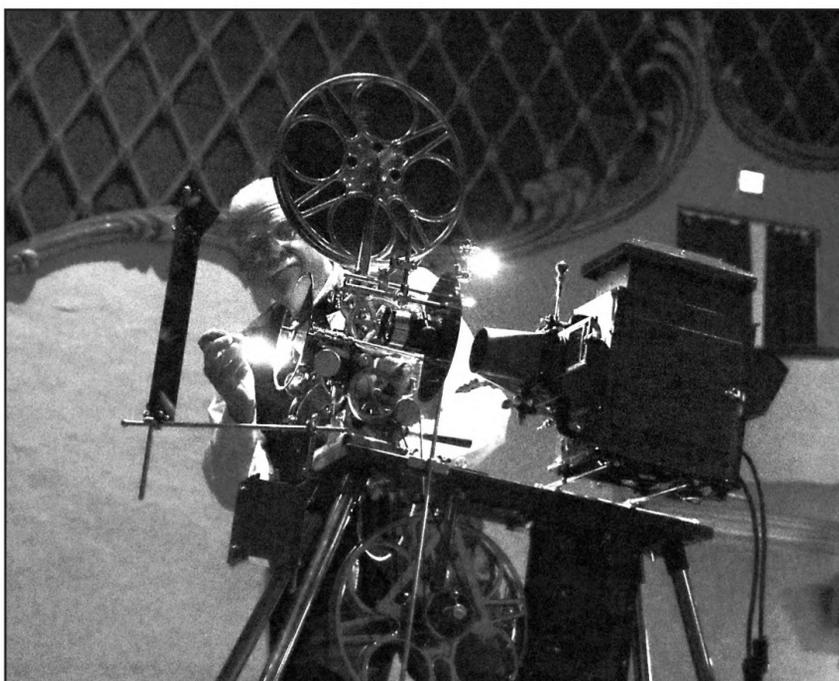
Queenhalgh shared her belief that for younger generations, using your imagination is important in order to get engaged in silent film.

Queenhalgh said, “Actors for this time-era had to be very expressive and tell a story without the use of dialogue or special effects like today. That makes silent films like these art.”

Matthew Spindler, the Fox Theater manager, was the one who first suggested showing “The Phantom of the Opera” locally after seeing one of Rinaudo’s shows at the Hanford Fox Theater in Hanford, California.

“We always want to show our audience something cool and different to what is available today,” said Spindler. “Plays, shows, movies, and performances like cult classics from the 1940’s to the 1980’s are always popular, but this time I wanted people to experience something that barely exists anymore.”

Black and white silent films such as “The Phantom of the



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Joe Rinaudo inspects his 1909 Powers Cameragraph at “The Phantom of the Opera.”

Opera,” explained Spindler, give people an idea of what it was like to experience entertainment

in the past. According to Spindler, the Fox Theater will be working to show

more black and white silent films like “The Phantom of the Opera” in the future.

Local residents run 5k in costumes at the Park at Riverwalk for charity at the Haunted Hustle

By Ambria King
Photo Editor

More than 150 local residents gathered at the Park at Riverwalk at 8 a.m. on Oct. 28 to participate in the Haunted Hustle, a 5k marathon hosted by Super Fly Running, which raises money for cancer research.

Participants ranging from toddlers to seniors donned their Halloween costumes while running the course, which circled the perimeter of the Park at Riverwalk on Stockdale Highway.

As participants completed the

marathon, they were met with a celebratory burst of smoke from a fog machine and given a token of completion and a bottle of water by volunteers. Breanna Ludwick, a volunteer from Frontier High School and founder of Frontier’s Uplift Club, a club that focuses on spreading kindness through volunteer work and fundraising for charities, said that the event was a lot of fun, and that the best part was watching families do something fun and healthy together.

Coworkers Toni Ronquillo, Ashley Lee, and Scharline Rojas

all participated in the 5k marathon together. It was the first 5k any of them had ever participated in and they all agreed that even though it was difficult, all three of them planned to participate in more 5ks in the future. “It’s fulfilling to wake up early and do something, instead of hanging out on the couch all day,” said Lee.

The final runner crossed the finish line shortly after 10:30 a.m., but many of the participants hung around after the marathon to take photos and enjoy a mix of Halloween music.



AMBRIA KING / THE RIP

Danna Lopez and her two children, Yareti Lopez and Saul Lopez, smile as they cross the 5k finish line at the Haunted Hustle at the Park at Riverwalk on Oct. 28.

Renegade Struggles: James Tompkins

We all have a struggle, and every person has a different story. Each issue of The Rip will feature a student overcoming certain struggles to gain an education and better their life.

By Melissa Puryear
Reporter

“Struggle, I think, is a part of success,” said James Tompkins, 34, as he opened up about his past year at Bakersfield College, and what he defines as “being a returning citizen, being previously incarcerated.”

Tompkins knows the struggle of incarceration and the fear of others judging him for having been to prison, but he says he is like any other student on campus.

On his first day a year ago, he didn’t feel that way.

When he arrived, he had no idea where to go, who to talk to about his educational plans, or how to get started. He didn’t feel like “any other student” on campus while walking through

the halls to his classes, or sitting amongst other students in the campus environment.

What awaited him here on the outside, during his first tentative steps to negotiating the road to education and success, was a lack of a network of students like himself, or at the time, a support system in place at BC or amongst counselors, that helped students who were previously incarcerated.

He didn’t feel that anyone understood what it was like to be in his shoes or who were equally passionate about success and leadership through education and therefore he felt alone.

“There is a fear of judgement and a fear of just being kind of ostracized, when people find out. Overcoming the struggle without a group of people to

help out or without any peers that I could relate with, was probably the biggest barrier I had. ‘Cause when you don’t feel like you fit in, or when there’s no one to speak to, it’s impossible to really try to push forward,” Tompkins said.

On the first day, he said he left the college about 15 times. “It’s funny now, but then I was so frustrated it was unbelievable because I had no one to connect with. There was just no one around ... when I finally got through the admissions part of it, I still didn’t really have a clear idea of what was even possible for me, what other people, like myself, [who] were coming from a rough history, could do. I just knew I wanted to go to school.”

Tompkins would eventually



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

James Tompkins poses for a photo after talking about his struggles as a student at BC.

be compelled to do something constructive about it.

As one of the co-founders of a campus group called Free on the Outside, a group of previously incarcerated students that help each other overcome their internal fears, find encouragement through the friendships and work toward educational achievement, he has come a long way. Being a part of this student-focused group has helped him become a leader among his peers.

Tompkins said he first became inspired by Danny Muerillo.

Muerillo launched a similar organization a few years ago at the University of California,

Berkeley campus called Under-ground Scholars Initiative.

Muerillo, advocate for previously incarcerated students like himself, and has opened up conversations at UC Berkeley and been in the media spotlight for spreading awareness about the hardships that these students face when navigating the collegiate system that can often make them feel stigmatized as they try to succeed and be taken seriously academically.

Before Free on the Outside formed, there weren’t any other groups at BC that helped students like Tompkins, so having a group like this will promote successful students because, as he puts it, “We want the nar-

rative instead to be, instead of being someone that’s downtrodden and beaten, we want to have a hero story, a success story where we’ve overcome. We want to be seen as overcomers and successes versus being defined by our pasts.”

“I’m only a year into my education. There’s much further that needs to go, but I believe that with what we’re doing and the accomplishments that I already have and what I have to build on now because of Free on the Outside and what we’re doing together, its more possible now than it’s ever been before. Now that we’ve had extreme struggles, now we can know extreme success,” he said.

One Book panel discusses poverty

By Megan Fenwick
Social Media Editor

A panel was held in the Norman Levan Center at Bakersfield College on Oct. 19 to discuss the book “\$2 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America” by H. Luke Shaefer and Kathryn Edin as part of the One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern Project.

After opening remarks by Jack Hernandez, the center’s director, about how people need things like food and shelter before they can reach self-fulfillment, the moderator Oliver Rosales gave his own opening statement about the book.

“This book was selected ... because of the challenges related to poverty and unemployment here in the San Joaquin Valley. According to recent census data, between 2011 and 2015, 23.5 percent of Kern County’s population lived below the federal poverty line and of that number, 32 percent are children,” Rosales, a BC history professor, began.

“Although this book is mostly a qualitative analysis or narrative snapshot of how a set of families experienced poverty in places like Chicago’s Southside neighborhoods, industrial rustbelt cities like Cleveland, New York city, and the Mississippi Delta, many of these stories of struggle and survival in the face of pov-

erty are all too familiar for Kern County.”

Rosales then introduced the panel, which included Endee Grijalva, the program manager for adult education at BC, Mia Ocean, a BC Psychology professor, Justin Bell, a BC English professor, Faith Bradham, a BC librarian, and James Tompkins, a BC student and Student Government Senator.

Ocean, who has a history as a clinical social worker, began the discussion by bringing up some of the wording in federal block grants for state welfare that encouraged marriage for needy parents who need assistance.

“I find that exceptionally disturbing that the government would be talking about marriage as a way to kind of solve poverty rather than looking at the structural inequalities that are actually making that happen,” she said, and expressed concern that there was not a focus on education as well.

Later, Bell discussed preconceived notions and what people believe to be true about the poor. “It starts with Ronald Reagan’s welfare queen that they talk about in the book, and runs all the way up to today where they’re still having surveys where they talk about 60 to 70 percent of people wanting to help the poor and thinking that the government isn’t doing enough. But when



MEGAN FENWICK / THE RIP

Chris Brantley, a Bakersfield College student majoring in elementary education, asks the panel what they think is the best way to battle poverty and get involved on Oct. 19.

you throw the word ‘welfare’ in there, all of a sudden that number drops because welfare is a dirty word,” he said.

The panel went on to discuss their thoughts and criticisms of the book, and how libraries, colleges and shelters help address local poverty.

Eventually, audience mem-

bers were given the opportunity to ask questions and share their own thoughts on the book.

One student, Chris Brantley, talked about the homeless population in California compared to where he lived in Nebraska and what resources were available to them. “As I read through the stories, some of them were

very disheartening, and I was like, ‘some wouldn’t make it if it wasn’t for those programs,’” he said, and then asked about what could be done to help solve poverty and how students could help. The answers given from the panel ranged from philanthropy to suggesting how to get involved in legislation.

Learn to read labels

Health Advice: Practical tips for staying healthy

By Jenny Brito
Reporter

We often hear that the best approach to healthy eating is based on nutrition labels, and the Food and Drug Administration encourages people to check nutrition information before buying their food. Labels show calories as well as percentages of macronutrients and vitamins; knowing that information can help people make better choices.

Here’s the thing: reading labels can help if you happen to carry a magnifying glass and perhaps a calculator with you. Labels use small fonts, and the information is so cryptic that not even Sherlock Holmes can decipher it. I hear he has gained weight.

Last time I went grocery shopping I was reminded of the fact that nutrition labels can be misleading. So, here are my recommendations, based on experience, if you want to understand what’s in your food. First, be wary of nutrient callouts. This refers to how some companies focus on advertising their products as good sources of a



Jenny Brito

nutrient while hiding negative information. Cereal companies are experts in this area. They place a huge banner on the front of the box saying that the cereal is a good source of calcium. However, when you look at the label, you find that it is also a good source of sugar, calories, and misery.

In the same way, some products are advertised as good for your health when they are not. Fat-free items used to be in. Everybody bought fat-free yogurt, milk, ice cream, etc. What they didn’t know was that when companies decrease the fat content, they increase the sugar to ensure it still tastes good. So, you are simply swapping one item that is healthy in moderate amounts for another that can lead to diabetes.

People blindly believe everything that marketers want them to believe, and that irritates me. It bothers me because I was like them. If a product had 80 calories, I would have two because, after all, it was only 160 total calories. I was wrong. Companies make serving sizes smaller on purpose. Smaller portions mean that they can legally claim that the item has few calories when it does not. I am sure that most of you have had Cup Noodles (are you even considered a college student if you haven’t tried them?). Anyway, the nutrition label says that the item has 290 calories per serving, which is pretty good for a lunch or dinner. However, most cups have two servings in them. In other words, the whole container equals 580 calories.

There are other ways labels can be misleading. Some products claim to be good sources of fiber, and people buy them because fiber makes everything run smoothly, if you know what I mean. There is nothing wrong with that, but you should know that your body can’t process all types of fiber. In other words, high fiber is not always helpful. If you want something that works, go for whole grain foods. The trick to ensuring that they are actually whole grain is checking the first ingredient listed. If the first ingredient begins with “whole grain,” then the product is rich in fiber. Companies are required to list ingredients in the order they are used. If you see whole grain oats first, then that food item is mostly made of whole grain. In the same way, if you see sugar as the first ingredient, then the product is mostly sugar.

This is a lot of information, and it can get confusing at times. My advice to you is to keep it simple. Choose foods that have short ingredient lists, which suggests they are less processed. Stop believing in health claims like “good for joint health.” And please, check serving sizes.

‘Chasing the Harvest’ editor comes to BC

By Christina Benavides
Reporter

Bakersfield College students welcomed editor Gabriel Thompson, for the second discussion of his book, “Chasing the Harvest: Migrant Workers in California Agriculture.”

The book discussion started at 7:45 a.m. and was held at the Levan Center. Students were treated with a full breakfast before asking Thompson questions they had about the book. These questions initiated a conversation with the students and the author.

Thompson has experience with

the subject of farm workers due to his previous years in the field of journalism. He mentioned that he briefly worked in the fields and it made him start thinking of the people he was working with.

Thompson has been to several other locations to promote his book, such as New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Delano, and Fresno. He decided to come to BC to start a conversation with students about agriculture production, and the people who work within agriculture.

Throughout his experience and work in the fields, he grew to understand the hardships they had to face. He added that many

of the workers must work year after year, most with busy lives to come home to. Thompson also mentions that the portrayal of farm workers in newspapers is not entirely accurate compared to what he has witnessed firsthand.

“The motivation for this book, is that I hope through hearing people talk about their lives in detail, you get a real sense for them, and not a sense of them just as farm workers,” Thompson said.

He included that we all have lives outside of work, and his book allows him to show you more of the life from a farm

worker’s point of view.

Thompson mentioned that it was not hard for him to get people to talk to him for his book. He revealed how he got farm workers to open up about their lives and who they are as people. The questions he asked influenced the answer he received, which was more intimate.

“Do you remember your grandparents? Or the house they grew up in? What smells do you remember?” Thompson said.

These were questions he asked the farm workers he interviewed, in hopes of learning

more about them. He adds that these sorts of questions really change the atmosphere and get them thinking about their lives. Thompson was then able to put together a book with the words from the farm workers. Accuracy was important for the portrayal of the farm workers’ stories, and they were a part of the journey as much as Thompson was.

Students who attended this book discussion will be receiving vouchers from the bookstore for attending all three sessions. “Chasing the Harvest” is available through Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

Students learn about chemistry



MEGAN FENWICK / THE RIP

Emily Gibes, an animal science major going to Bakersfield College, measures out hot oil and emulsifier to mix with water and lemon fragrance to create her own lotion.

By Megan Fenwick
Social Media Editor

Bakersfield College held Chem Rocks, an event to promote Chemistry and other Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math(STEM) majors, on Oct. 24 in the Chemistry Courtyard of the Science and Engineering building.

The event, which ran from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., was in celebration of National Chemistry Week including food, activities and information at the various tables set up in the courtyard.

One table, dedicated to the Kern High School District, was manned by Kenelee Henderson, the Science Program Specialist for the KHSD, and Scott Oliver, a chemistry teacher at West High School. “We are here because the most critical areas for finding teachers for us is

science people, is science and mathematics,” said Henderson. “I think part of that is maybe that young people that are going through school don’t really consider that as a career option.”

“We’re using national chemistry week as an excuse to get all the STEM majors together, all the disciplines together,” said Julie Lowe, a Bakersfield College chemistry professor and the main organizer of the event. Lowe, who helped run a table where students could make their own lotion by mixing hot water, oil, emulsifier, and fragrance together, hoped the event would encourage students to pursue a degree in a STEM field, particularly Chemistry.

“I’m on a committee called the Pathways Completion Committee and so the committee is trying to get students to enter a

path, ... get into the major, take the right classes, proceed on the road, and then finally, boom! They’ve got their degree and then they can choose whatever career they want,” she said.

Cal State Bakersfield, a silicone company called NuSil, and other STEM majors like Biology and Engineering were represented at the event, as well as a table for resources like counseling and transfer services available at BC.

Gustavo Garcia, a chemistry major at BC who ran a cotton candy machine at Chem Rocks to raise money for the American Chemical Society, believes that more students may be interested in STEM fields but may have never been introduced to them. “So for me this event is kind of like introducing people to a field that they might want to explore,” he said.

Music festival offers students opportunity to improve vocals



KARLA GUTIERREZ / THE RIP

The men of the BC Chamber singers get ready to sing.

By Karla Gutierrez
Reporter

The Bakersfield College Chamber Festival is where the sound of music came alive on Oct. 23, in the Edward Simonson Performing Arts Center. There was 12 high schools, plus the BC Chamber Singers being evaluated by Dr. David Dickau, who is a conductor and composer from Minnesota State University.

Each choir had a mini clinic, where Dr. Dickau would work with the choir to fix any problems such as intonation, tone, diction, etc. He would make the choir use motions like spinning their finger to get to the right pitch, or by having them walk around the piano to feel the rhythm of the music and beat.

“It’s a Chamber festival

where there’s a lot of chamber groups, which are high level singing groups, from different high schools from Bakersfield that are coming and we all get to show off our stuff and get judged by a guest conductor,” said Neiman McDuff, who is a part of the BC Chamber Singers.

Angela Caffee, who is also a part of the BC Chambers, mentioned that she was more excited about singing in front of the high schools because in a way it was like recruiting people to see their concert and for them to sing for the choir.

Some of the songs that the BC Chamber Singers performed for the high schools were “Alleluia” by Jake Runestad, “Twa Tanbou” by Sydney Guillaume, and “Nachtwache II, Opus 104, No. 2” by Johannes Brahms.

Video Game Review

Players can bend time with their farts in 'The Fractured but Whole'

By Brandon Cowan
Web Editor

"South Park: The Fractured but Whole" is a direct sequel to the game "South Park: The Stick of Truth."

Before I get into how The Fractured but Whole is an amazing game, I would like to say that I received this game for free.

I beat the previous game "The Stick of Truth," and I enjoyed that game a ton, but The Fractured but Whole is even better.

This sequel delivers a fun role-playing, turn-based puzzle game that could almost not be any better.

The combat system is so good. I normally am not a fan of turn-based games, but "The Fractured but Whole" does it so well.

You play as New Kid from the previous game, but this time you now get to control time with your farts.

The combat system is better than the last game because now you have to position yourself instead of just taking turns. Every ability that you use has a different range that can hit your opponents.

You start off choosing one super power and then later on get to choose a second one. You also get an ability where you can skip an enemy's attack by rewinding time with your farts.

"The Fractured but Whole" not only has great combat, but it also has great humor. One of the collectables in the game is yaoi of Tweek and Craig. Yaoi is drawn Japanese gay pornography.

There is also a minigame where the player has to defecate in every toilet around South Park.

The plot of this game is a continuation from the last game. The South Park kids are now playing superheroes. The kids initially plan to rescue a lost cat that has an award of \$100 in order to fund the Coon and Friends franchise.

It ends up turning into something convoluted and hilarious.

There are many side-quests in Fractured but Whole. One of the first side-quests that you receive is from Randy. He says that someone has been keying his car and tells you to find out who it is. You eventually find out that it was him just getting drunk at night and then keying his own car.

You take away his keys and then beat him up so he will not drive while intoxicated. Later on, he chases you down in a drunken rage in order to get his car keys back. You then have to beat him up again and he gets a taxi to go home.

I love this game. Go buy it.



Restaurant Review

Lots of delicious Greek options available at new location of Athena's Greek Café and Grill

By Megan Fenwick
Social Media Editor

Athena's Greek Café and Grill has a new location that has opened on 2900 Calloway Drive. The restaurant was decorated with ancient Greek themed art and was somewhat dimly lit except for the light from the windows.

I decided to get the Veggie Pita, which is a wheat or white pita filled with grilled squash, zucchini, mushrooms, onions and bell peppers and topped with tzatziki. I chose the wheat pita and the lemon potatoes as my side along with a salad. My friend Lizette decided to get a side of the rice pilaf so we could share and find out how both sides tasted.

I thought my pita was really good, but I did think they put too much tzatziki on top, to the point that it was falling out of the pita and the yogurt taste was overpowering the vegetables. I also ordered a small side of a red pepper dip that tasted kind of like hummus and put some of it inside my pita to give it a little spiciness.

The lemon potatoes were well cooked and flavorful, if a little tarter than I would have liked. The rice pilaf was flavorful as well, but I would probably choose the potatoes over the rice.

The other dish we ordered was the spanakopita, a spinach and feta filled Greek pie. The phyllo



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

Megan Fenwick prepares to try the Veggie Pita with a side of lemon potatoes and salad.

dough of the spanakopita was flaky and crispy and the filling was creamy and delicious. I've had a small spanakopita before at a farmer's market and didn't hold a candle to Athena's, which was the best dish I had at the restaurant. I highly recommend it.

Lastly, I took some dessert from the restaurant's bakery home with me because I was way too full to eat it there. It was really hard to choose from their options because so many of them looked tempting. I'm still sad

that I didn't try their carrot cake, baklava, or their oatmeal bars.

I ultimately decided on a rum cake and a Greek spice cookie that I believe was called a melomakarona. The rum cake was a chocolate cake soaked in rum, and covered in chocolate with a small peanut butter filling. I was a bit disappointed that there wasn't more peanut butter inside. I originally planned to share the cake with my mother, but I ended up eating it all myself. What she doesn't know won't hurt her.

I did end up sharing my cookie with her, which was also very tasty, especially if you love spices like cinnamon and cloves.

One drawback for me was how expensive the restaurant was. If your budget looks anything like mine, a \$12 dish, like my veggie pita, can be a deal breaker. But otherwise, Athena's Greek Café and Grill is a nice choice if you're thinking of eating out somewhere new.



Renegade Events

News

Bakersfield College is now smoke-free, and people are no longer allowed to smoke tobacco on campus.

Campus Events

- Nov. 1: My UC Application and Personal Insight Questions Workshop at CSS 151 at 1-2 p.m.
- Nov. 1: BCSGA Student Services Discount Day at the BC Bookstore from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Nov. 2: Book Discussion - "Chasing the Harvest: Migrant Workers in California Agriculture" at the Levan Center from 7:45 to 9:15 a.m.
- Nov. 3: Finding Books and Ebooks Workshop at L217 at 11 a.m.
- Nov. 4: Bakersfield College Adjunct Faculty Fair at L148 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Nov. 6: Finding Articles in Periodical Databases Workshop at L217 at 8:30 a.m.
- Nov. 6: Veterans Community Leader Breakfast at the Renegade Room from 8-9:30 a.m.
- Nov. 6: Latinos Unidos Por Educacion (LUPE) StudOrg Meeting at Campus Center 5 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Nov. 6: Counseling Outside the Box outside of the Campus Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Nov. 6: My UC Application and Personal Insight Questions Workshop at CSS 151 at 12-1 p.m.
- Nov. 6: Veterans in the Classroom Professional Development Training at the Levan Center from 1-3 p.m.
- Nov. 6: Strategies for Effective Research Workshop at L217 at 4 p.m.
- Nov. 6: Accreditation Forum: Standard III at the Levan and Delano Center from 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- Nov. 6: Pre-Nursing Orientation at Forum 101 6:15-7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 7: Support Our Troops - Care Package Drop Zone in front of the Administration Building from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Nov. 7: Outreach Orientation at Forum 101 from 5-7 p.m.
- Nov. 7: Bakersfield College Adjunct Faculty Fair at CSS 151 from 6-8 p.m.
- Nov. 8: Last day to file for graduation
- Nov. 8: Early web registration begins for spring 2018.
- Nov. 8: Women in Combat: Distinguished Speaker Series at the Fireside Room from 8-11 a.m.
- Nov. 8: Counseling Outside the Box outside of the Campus Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Nov. 8: Gadfly Cafe: Religion, Purpose and Values at the Levan Center from 12:30-1:30 p.m.
- Nov. 8: Avoiding Plagiarism Workshop at L217 at 3 p.m.
- Nov. 8: Commercial Music Ensemble at the Indoor Theater from 7-9 p.m.
- Nov. 9: Evaluating Internet Sources Workshop at L217 at 9 a.m.
- Nov. 9: CalStateApply! Workshop at CSS 151 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Nov. 9: Veffest 2017 on the CSS Lawn from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Nov. 10-11: Holiday - Veterans Day.
- Nov. 13: Finding Articles in Periodical Databases Workshop in L217 at 3 p.m.
- Nov. 13: BC Jazz Fall 2017 Concert at the Indoor Theater from 7-9:30 p.m.
- Nov. 14: Strategies for Effective Research Workshop at L217 at 11 a.m.
- Nov. 14: Counseling Outside the Box outside of the Campus Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Nov. 14: My UC Application and Personal Insight Questions Workshop at CSS 151 at 12-1 p.m.
- Nov. 15-18: George Orwell's 1984 at the BC Black Box Theatre. Shows at 7:30 p.m. and a matinee on Nov. 18 at 2 p.m.
- Nov. 22: Classes starting at 5:30 p.m. and after will not be held.
- Nov. 23-25: Holiday - Thanksgiving.
- Nov. 29: Open web registration begins for spring 2018.
- Dec. 2-8: Final exams.
- Dec. 9: Fall session ends.

Off Campus Events

- Nov. 4: Bakersfield Police Memorial Run at River Walk Park at 8-11 a.m.
- Nov. 5: El Oficial Dia De Los Muertos Celebration at the Kern County Museum at 2-7 p.m.
- Nov. 11: 2017 Kern Energy Festival at the Kern County Museum from 10 a.m to 3 p.m..
- Nov. 11: Bacon and Craft Beer Festival at River Walk Park at 1-5 p.m.
- Nov. 11: Parents of Trans Kids support group at the Annex at 1:30-3 p.m.
- Nov. 11: The Gay and Lesbian Center of Bakersfield's 6th Anniversary Celebration at 6-9 p.m.

Compiled by Megan Fenwick
Social Media Editor



First place for newspaper in 2011, third place in 2013, 2014, 2015 for CNPA General Excellence
Ninth place for newspaper in 2016 for national Best of Show contest by Associated Collegiate Press
Second place nationally in 2016 for website publication by Associated Collegiate Press

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The Renegade Rip

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BC sends Napa Valley College and Santa Rosa College a signed card

By Alexandra Apatiga
Reporter

Since early October 2017, several wildfires across the state of California have been burning, and causing catastrophic damage to the land, destroying hundreds of homes.

The most impacted by the fires has been Northern California's wine country, including Napa and Sonoma County, home to Napa Valley College and Santa Rosa Junior College.

Here at Bakersfield College, students were given the opportunity to offer support by signing cards to be sent to Santa Rosa

Junior and Napa Valley College.

Like Bakersfield, Napa and Santa Rosa each have a local community college which provides students the opportunity to transfer to a higher institution for education or immediately enter the workforce within two years.

But this year's semester was cut short following multiple fires near Sonoma and Napa County which displaced thousands of residents, including students, faculty and staff.

In Napa County alone, 592 homes have been destroyed and in Santa Rosa more than 500 students and faculty lost their

homes.

As of Oct. 27, the Tubbs, Atlas and Nuns Fire are still burning in Sonoma and Napa County with containment at more than 90 percent.

Despite heavy losses, both communities have bounced back thanks to the support of local efforts and support from neighboring areas.

Monika Scott, Marketing and PR Manager at Bakersfield College, shared how she and fellow staff were finding ways to help their fellow community colleges.

"It was important for us to offer one small way that ev-

eryone could contribute to the tremendous outpouring of love and support" said Scott as she explained the idea of sending signed cards to the schools.

She added that these fires will likely leave lasting marks on these communities for years to come. "Through various stories, we see small snapshots of what the situation is like, but it is hard to imagine all the various ways in which the effects will leave an impact as a whole."

"The California community college system is a family, and our campuses across the state are united in a shared goal of making higher education attain-

able for all."

Scott hopes that these cards, while minimal, will show those who've been effected the love and support they need.

She also shared various other ways students at Bakersfield College could help in the midst of this natural disaster. Such as making donations to the SRJC Relief Fund, that helps in assisting students' needs related to the fire, the Napa Valley Community College Foundation, and donating to local food pantries.

Both Santa Rosa Junior College and Napa Valley College have resumed their class schedules as of mid-October.

Just try to Breathe

Mental Health: For mental wellness and awareness

By Christina Benavides
Reporter

My courses at Bakersfield College have allowed me to socialize and interact with new people. This can sometimes be a nightmare for a person who is dealing with anxiety.

For a person suffering from an anxiety disorder, the feeling of being worried does not go away.

I deal with anxiety every day, and it definitely is harder than someone's ordinary day. You spend time worrying about things you have no control over.

People with anxiety-related disorders deal with constant worry, nervousness, and fear. This can interfere with your daily routine. I'll discuss the daily thoughts I have while dealing with anxiety, and what I do to cope with it.

Now let's be clear, having anxiety is much more than nervousness or feeling worry because you want to pass an exam. It is important not to self-diagnose yourself and instead to seek a mental health professional.

My personal experience and tips can help anyone whether you have an anxiety disorder or not. Everyone can still relate to the feeling of worry or being anxious.

Most days I start off by thinking about what has to get done that day, which sounds normal. I do not only think about what has to be done that day though. I have feelings of worry about the entire week in one sitting. You can imagine how stressful and overwhelming this can be for a person. Do not worry, there are ways to help prevent feelings of panic that I have found to be helpful.

Stay organized and do not procrastinate. It can be hard to stay organized, but if your weekly tasks are all sorted out then you will find yourself worrying less.

I notice that when I do not write down where and when I will be during the week, I feel overwhelmed. For example, let's say I did not bother to write down something important a professor told me about an assignment. This does not sound too hectic, but it soon can become that way. The day it is due arrives, and I realize I must go back and edit that assignment before it is due. I also have another assignment due at the same time, but wait, I have not eaten dinner yet. Then I remember I need to prepare for a presentation the following morning. Panic can strike, however something like this could be avoided easily by being organized. Do not procrastinate because you can feel rushed and be affected negatively.

Anxiety makes this type of situation much worse. It can even sometimes cause your school performance to decrease if you do not have it handled.

During my day I worry about things being "Perfect." I know we all can relate to wanting to do our best at everything we do, but sometimes we make mistakes. Mistakes are totally okay and help us grow.

People coping with anxiety know that taking deep controlled breaths are always recommended. I never thought it worked, until I tried it. All you do is take a few deep breaths under the time you desire. By doing this, you are focusing on the action and not your feelings of panic or worry. Saying words of encouragement to yourself when you feel anxious can also be a great way at keeping your anxiety levels down.

I will leave you with this final bit of advice. Stay organized, do not procrastinate, keep a positive mindset, and take the time to breathe when you have a lot on your plate. My tips do not eliminate any anxiety-disorders, but I share them in hopes of bringing someone reassurance.



Christina Benavides

#METOO: Bakersfield residents, both local men and women, share their sexual harrasment or assault experiences after participating in the #MeToo movement, meant to demonstrate its common occurence, on Twitter.

Continued from Page 1

up and condemn sexual assault.

One of those women is Beth, 24, who declined to provide her last name. She stated that she is no longer afraid to speak up. She first heard about the campaign online and decided to join the millions of other females who participated.

She tweeted an image that told how her best friend's brother took advantage of her while she was asleep.

When asked why she decided to join the movement, Beth

said that she had been a victim of rape attempts many times and had to deal with men being vulgar toward her for years. She hoped that sharing her story would show women around the world that they are not alone.

Some females are still reluctant to join the #MeToo because they fear that others will judge them. To them, Beth said that, "speaking out isn't a mistake and it will take a lot of pressure off your shoulders and you will have so much support."

Another female from Bakers-

field also shared the reasons that motivated her to post about sexual assault.

Tiffany Blaylock said that she found the #MeToo thread on social media too powerful to ignore.

"It is a way to say we've been abused sexually without going into the heartbreaking details about it," Blaylock said. She added that it helped her see that she was not alone and what happened to her was not her fault.

While the campaign was started by women for other women,

others have also attempted to claim the hashtag as their own. Transgender individuals as well as men have said that people should not forget that they can be victims, too.

Henry, 28, who declined to provide his last name, explained that he chose to participate in the campaign despite knowing that it was targeted toward women because he wanted others to see that men can also be raped.

He shared that he is aware that females are the most common victims, but men also need

support.

"It is much more difficult for men to talk about this because others either make fun of us or think we are less than a man for it," Henry stated.

#MeToo is still growing, and the hashtag has been used approximately 825,000 times, according to a Twitter spokesperson.

Burke recently took to Twitter to say that she was pleased to see that so many women were being empowered by her campaign.

FIRE: Fire Prevention according to the Bakersfield Fire Department is essential in defeating fires.

Continued from Page 1

homes" should be at least 100-foot clearance from the home in urban areas.

Ideally, this would mean that property owners should remove any tall trees or shrubs to meet the safety clearance. Yearly property maintenance of weeds and grasses, pruning and removing dead wood accumulation, will decrease chances of fire-spread. Wood shake roofs, as mentioned previously, also pose significant risks.

Should the fire department need to respond to a fire in urban areas, adequate turn-around space should be made so that the fire engines can get to the back and side of the home.

It is also important to have the proper fire extinguisher on hand. Choosing the correct fire extinguisher for the type of fire a resident might encounter is the difference between being able to control and extinguish the threat and the fire getting out of control. Having a multi-purpose fire extinguisher is useful in containing dry chemical fire, car-

bon dioxide fire, grease fires, and electrical fires, according to Frando. Fire extinguishers should not be stored under a cabinet, or stove, but placed somewhere easily accessible, such as in a pantry or near the entrance or exit of the dwelling.

One of the common concerns of residents is what to do should the pilot light go out on the stove, water heater or furnace this winter. Hartley suggests that residents use caution if they should relight the pilot light. Make sure there is no odor of gas. If there is an odor, he suggests closing the gas shut-off valve on the appliance, evacuating everyone from the dwelling, and to call the gas company immediately. If there is no gas odor, for safety precaution, before relighting the pilot light, open windows and doors to allow the room to air out for at least five minutes.

Helpful fire prevention tips were posted on Bakersfield Fire Department webpage during the first week of October.

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Poll : Marijuana

Should marijuana be grown, processed and sold in Bakersfield?

NO (4) 27%	YES (11) 73%
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Women's soccer continues winning streak

By Lizette Chavez
Editor-in-Chief

Bakersfield College Women's Soccer team was victorious over Victor Valley College on Oct. 24 at the home game held at Memorial Stadium. In a seemingly well matched game both teams played with neither scoring in the first half.

A couple of plays saw BC get close to scoring; one play was run by Jackie Garcia who passed to Lea Mason who then kicked it to Alexi Baca, but her pass was met short. Another play that came close was run by Drew Hallum who passed to Cameron Jimenez who kicked to Brianna Gutierrez who was fouled by the number two VVC player. The VVC player was yellow carded and Gutierrez attempted to score a goal but shot too wide. The VVC player wasn't the only person of her team to get carded, one of the coaches got yellow carded

for talking back to the referee who threatened to kick him out of the field if he continued.

The game saw many of the players injured with both teams seeing players fall. Lea Mason suffered a hit and was walked off the field to receive medical attention in the first half. Alexia Raudier injured her rib and fell for a time from the pain but was cleared to continue. Raudier was later kicked from behind by a VVC player as she attempted to keep control of the ball in the second half of the game.

"I didn't know why she did that, she just kicked me, I was like 'why did she kick me, why would she do that?'" Raudier recounted the incident after the game.

The first and only score of the game was made by Odalys Espinoza 77 minutes into the game. Espinoza headed the ball after Ashley Quintanilla's corner kick which was met with cheers from



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

Jackie Garcia travels the ball in an attempt to keep control.

the crowd. The goal secured BC's victory over VVC and marked Espinoza's third game winning goal and her tenth goal

of the season.

Of their victory Coach Scott Dameron had this to say, "It was [a] good [game], there are defi-



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

Goalie Taylor Serrano makes a save from an attempted goal.

nitely some things we want to work on after this game... it was a very physical game and both teams competed very hard but I

think we did a better job competing in the second half." The team won 1-0 and are currently on a three-win streak.



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

Sabrina Murrillo watches and guards over teammate Alexia Raudier who lays on the ground after experiencing pain in her ribs.

Bakersfield College men's soccer team breaks losing streak with 1-0 win against Victor Valley College



AMBRIA KING / THE RIP

Carlos Melendez prepares for a corner kick during the Oct. 27 game against Victor Valley.

"GETWorks for me because my service dog and I can travel to Bakersfield College safely and on time. The drivers are helpful, and my dog seems to enjoy the ride. GET brings me closer to my goals."

Ian Kennedy
BC Student
Future Vocal Coach
GET Rider



BC crushes Santa Monica, 48-0

By Alexandra Apatiga
Reporter

For the final home game at Bakersfield College's Memorial Stadium Oct. 28, the BC Renegades defeated the Pirates of Santa Monica College 48-0, marking this win as 7-1 overall this season, with only a single loss.

The first half of the game saw BC dominate the field, scoring 17 points in the first quarter and 14 points in the second quarter. BC Renegade Cameron Roberson scored the first touchdown with a 4-yard run. Following Roberson was BC Renegade Chance Cooper who made an 11-yard touchdown after completing a pass from his teammate Brandon Jones. Inbetween both touchdowns Nathan DeJager scored a 35-yard field goal, as well as scoring two good kicks for an extra point on Roberson's and Cooper's touchdowns.

By the beginning of the second quarter, BC was still going strong. The Renegades made two touchdowns along with two good kicks from DeJager for an extra point each. Brandon Jones of BC made the first touchdown by making a 2-yard run to the end zone, but it was Roberson's punt return that stole the show. Making a 53-yard punt return for a touchdown and setting BC on

the path for the win.

By the end of the first half, BC was ahead of Santa Monica 31-0.

As the second half opened, Santa Monica had made little progress past BC's defense. By the end of the game, BC had given up 164-yards and had forced three turnovers. The Renegades kept the pressure on Santa Monica, with DeJager making a 34-yard field goal – his second field goal of the night – and Renegade Lameshio Hill running for a 4-yard touchdown. With an additional extra point from DeJager on Hill's touchdown, the BC Renegades were at 41-0 by the end of quarter three.

The final fourth quarter was end game with certain victory for the home team. Santa Monica once again made a last ditch effort to gain some ground on the field, but their progress was halted by BC as they made a final touchdown for the night. Malik Barkley ran for a 6-yard touchdown, boosted by DeJager's consistent kicks, and bringing BC's final score to 48-0.

This season has been a good one for Bakersfield College's football team, with an average of 33 points a game, a 4-1 record at home, and a winning streak of five games, BC has two more games before the end of their season. Their next game will be at Ventura College on Nov. 4.



ALEXANDRA APATIGA / THE RIP

Bakersfield College Renegade football player Elisha Ortiz sprints across the field with his teammate Blake Brown while two Santa Monica Pirates chase Ortiz down.

Cannon captain fires final shot for the season

By Melissa Puryear
Reporter

John A. Medvigy, Bakersfield College's gun crew captain who also is a member of the Vets Club, fired the final shot from the cannon at BC's last home game for the season, against Santa Monica on Oct. 28.

Medvigy announced that he will be retiring as the cannon crew captain next fall. It will mark his 30th season. Courtney Carter, a BC alumnus and current BC staffer, will step up to fill Medvigy's role as the new gun crew captain when Medvigy retires.

The Bakersfield College Renegade's time-honored tradition of the cannon ball fire began in the mid-1960s, and has been carried out dutifully by Medvigy since 1972, with a few years away when Medvigy served in the Army, from 1972 to 1976.

"A caisson was built for it [the cannon] by Three-Way Chevro-



MELISSA PURYEAR / THE RIP

Cannon Crew Captain John Medvigy, and Co-Captain Courtney Carter fire a cannon after a touchdown.

let in the late 90s because it was hectic to roll out to the stadium," Medvigy said. "Three-Way Chevrolet has dropped it off and picked it up since the mid-90s.

Three-Way has been exceptional for that."

Medvigy discussed the role of the cannon in home games during football season and said,

"We are the official gun for Bakersfield college football. We shoot test rounds to make sure everything is functioning."

There are other key moments during a football game that football fans will hear the cannon and that is "during the playing of the National Anthem, when the Gades come on the field, at the start of each half, at the end of each quarter, and when Renegades score." He also detailed how they are able to amplify the smoke and noise. "We use packed 12-gauge shotgun shells that are filled with triple fine-grain black powder. We use it so you can see the smoke that comes out." Black powder, according to Medvigy is, "so efficient with expansion and firing the shell out."

One of Medvigy's most memorable times with the cannon was in December 1976. A "500 car caravan went from Bakersfield to the Junior Rose Bowl. Families, students, alumni and people

supporting the game joined, even active duty from the Naval and Army Reserve Center went. We blew them [Ellsworth Community College from Ellsworth Iowa] away. Gene's Gun Shop and Valley Gun shop donated 10 pounds of gun powder for the Rose Bowl." Medvigy said that he burned through all of the gun powder, which is enough to last the entire football season, in one game.

Next year, during his final year working with the cannon crew, he said that he wants to use the final season to focus on training. He will teach the cannon crew how to pack the shells by hand and will also oversee the safety procedures are learned and adhered to, so that no one is injured.

Carter, who is currently the Executive Secretary for the Bakersfield College Foundation, will replace Medvigy after his final season next year.

Carter has a long history with

cannons. She has fired cannons for 27 years. Carter's love for the cannon began with her grandfather, William Kofahl, who was a member of the The Muzzle Loader Association in Bakersfield and taught Carter all he knew about the cannon. Kofahl spent six years building a cannon, while Carter was a young girl, an apprentice at her grandfather's side.

Regarding her new position Carter said, "it's exciting, it's an honor and I couldn't be more proud. I'm sure my grandfather would be smiling down on me with pride." She said that she feels that after all of the training, it paid off and this is her tribute to her grandfather's memory.

Veterans who are interested in volunteering on the cannon safety committee can call Carter at the Bakersfield College Foundation at (661) 395-4800 Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for next season's safety committee volunteer schedule and lineup.

BC tennis raises funds

By Lizette Chavez
Editor-in-Chief

The Bakersfield College's Men and Women's Tennis Programs held a fundraising event in the BC cafeteria on Oct. 19 at 6 p.m. The fundraiser was held to raise money for the tennis players' uniforms, equipment and travel costs at away games, which can reach close to \$300 per player. Nick Jacobs, head coach for the men's and women's tennis teams, shared some of his hopes for the outcome of the event, seeing as how this fundraiser in particular is where the majority of their funds come in from.

Jacobs said, "It kind of varies depending on the year, the last couple of years we've been pretty good with our fundraiser numbers, but usually we try to target anywhere from around five to eight grand just based off the dinner."

Tickets for the event were sold for \$40 a person and included a steak or chicken dinner with green beans, potatoes, salad and bread. A bar was also set up for guest to order wine or liquor with a tip jar that read "tip big."

Guests were seated at their tables by either the men's or women's tennis team members and would then be offered raffle tickets for sale. One guest Stan Newman bought \$20 worth of



LIZETTE CHAVEZ / THE RIP

From left to right: Beth Kuney, Ann Tatum, Jeany Parent, and Pam Boyles look at some of the raffle prizes.

raffle tickets from the women's tennis team. Raffle tickets were sold for a \$1 each, six tickets for \$5 or 100 tickets for \$20.

After buying raffle tickets, guests were encouraged to enter their tickets into baskets that held the name of various prizes. The prizes ranged from amazon gift cards, jewelry, spa packages and lottery tickets to private tennis lessons with former professional tennis player Hank Pfister.

Guests were also offered entertainment and the BC drumline made an appearance and per-

formed.

The coaches went up on stage to introduce the new tennis team players and to thank the guests for attending the event.

Coach Nick Loudermick said, "Thank you so much for coming out and supporting men's and women's tennis ... The team is taking great strides, we are a top 10 tennis team in California, we kind of put tennis back on the map."

The Tennis Fundraiser event raised approximately \$6,200 and had 120 people in attendance.

Basketball player Murphy plans to pursue her goals on and off the court

By Ambria King
Photo Editor

Bakersfield College women's basketball player Aerin Murphy has only been attending BC for two semesters, but has already begun to set and pursue lofty goals both on and off the court.

The 19-year-old freshman began playing basketball in her junior year at Frontier High School and says she originally took an interest in the game because she enjoys the competition and being part of a team. "I like pushing myself to my limit and getting out of my comfort zone... it was difficult [when I first started] but it's worth it," said Murphy.

While playing at Frontier, Murphy suffered a severe injury to her right knee, which she feared would force her to take the season off.

"I thought I wasn't going to be able to play," said Murphy, "but I ended up recovering faster than I was supposed to, and I actually got to play and wound up winning an MVP award that year."

Murphy, who majors in biology and plans to pursue a career as a maxillofacial surgeon, touts keeping a positive



AMBRIA KING / THE RIP

Aerin Murphy poses for a photo at the BC Campus Center.

attitude as her secret to success both on and off the court.

That positive attitude has contributed to the Renegade women's basketball team holding a 3-1 record in the current season. "We lost our first game to Cer-

ritos, but we beat every other team after that. I think we're going to be good this year," said Murphy.

After finishing at BC, Murphy hopes to transfer to a CSU or UC in the Bay area.

The BMOA Rothschild inspired party 'Art After Dark' was a surreal memory for me

By Lizette Chavez
Editor-in-Chief

When I was a little girl I always dreamt of going to a ball, and as I got older art became a very big part of my life and Halloween my favorite holiday. So it was obvious that a Rothschild Surreal Ball would be my cup of tea and when I heard the Bakersfield Museum of Art would be hosting a party inspired by the event on Oct. 26 I knew I would be attending.

A night of art, surrealist outfits and costumes and makeup galore not to mention the Halloween vibes, which I live for, this party was made for me. I find nothing more pleasant than frantically slaving away on a last minute costume with very little money to my name, my whole outfit by the way head to toe makeup and all was only \$10.

I wasn't too sure what I wanted to do for my costume because I had so many ideas but I knew I didn't want to wear a dress. I had decided on a tux of some form and ventured out into my vice establishment, the 99 Cents Only Store. I had only been there the day before and meant to purchase a top hat but in my over processed and stressed mind I forgot and they were sold out.

As I was going through each and every aisle trying to feed my denial on the top hats unavailability I stopped dead in my tracks when I noticed a white silky negligee. To my great luck it came with a with a silky pair of pants so I added it to my cart and the gears started turning.

I knew exactly which shoes would match and what black blazer I could pair it with and then I saw them, these white sparkly branches and snowflake shaped flowers. And then I thought what goes best with black and white, red lipstick, but then I figured I needed something red to balance out the color palette and I found it in a Christmas berry and pine branches wreath. I was all set and I finally had an idea of what I was going to wear so I purchased my items and headed straight home.

I began with my makeup and decided to go for an owl-like look. I used a lighter shade of foundation and highlighted my face away then I shadowed my eyes and added little feather-like strokes around my temples and nose.

I then feathered my eyebrows with a gel and black eyeshadow and lined my eyes with a dark liner and finally finished with a red lip.

After I finished my makeup I started on my hair, which I teased mercilessly to create a nest-like tuft and started looping the branches, flowers, and berries into my hair.

I was quite pleased with my finished look but I was also quite anxious about being the only one dressed up.



MEGAN FENWICKJ / THE RIP

Lizette Chavez prepares to taste the "The Baroness", a surrealism inspired drink created by Tiki Ko. The drink was made with Jamaican rum, cream sherry, apricot liqueur, lemon juice, demerara syrup, angostura bitters and gold flaked glitter as a garnish, at the Bakersfield Museum of Art's sculpture gardens on Oct. 26. This event was the last "Art After Dark" party of the year, and included an open art exhibit, live music and a light installation.

Luckily when I got there the woman that signed me in had a butterfly lit headpiece and she complimented me on my hair and makeup. The event was held in the BMOA gardens and the regular sculptures were decorated with giant eyeballs and dreamy clouds all highlighted with blue lights in the mostly dark lit area.

I was pleased to see various guests in intricate costumes and creative headpieces and makeup styles all mingling with each other and taking pictures by the sculptures.

Two bars were set up selling surrealist inspired cocktails provided by Tiki Ko and Sandrini's Public House, I'm not usually a big drinker but I heard there was a drink with edible glitter so I decided to indulge, something I regretted later for multiple reasons.

I chose "The Baroness", a drink made of Jamaican rum, cream sherry, apricot liqueur, lemon juice, demerara syrup, and angostura bitters topped with edible gold flaked glitter. I'll admit it I felt cool as heck.

My friend Megan accompanied me and while we were walking around we decided to go inside and take a look at some of the art on display. As we walked along admiring the work I decided to sit as my heels

were cutting my circulation and seemed intent on cutting of my toes, when lo and behold, the plastic champagne flute came apart and drenched me and the floor in its glittery glory. To say I was embarrassed was an understatement, not to mention I had no way of cleaning it up because of the branches and flowers in my hair but sweet, kind and patient Megan ran to the restroom grabbed some towels and cleaned it up for me.

After a quick trip to the restroom, we returned to the gardens to watch the band Tigercide perform a couple of songs, viewed a few more sculptures and the live light installation by Alex Sarad and decided to leave.

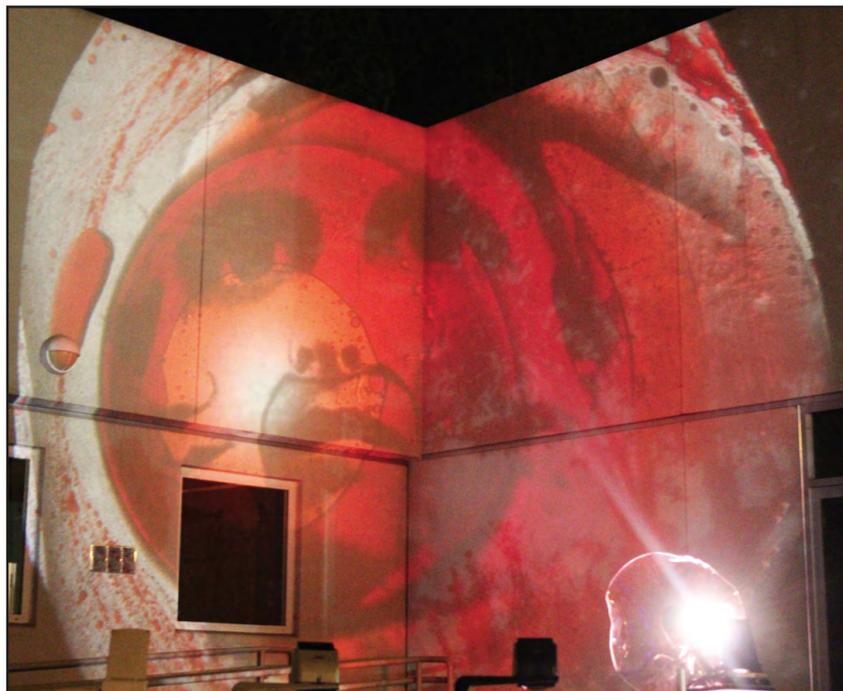
Megan and I decided to look for some pizza which resulted in a lot of u-turns, off-key singing and rapping and ripping my pants trying to save an old receipt, so we decided to call it a night.

Needless to say, I can finally say I've been to a ball, sort of. I still love art and Halloween is still my favorite holiday, but I had more fun snapchatting with my best friend on a bench after the event than at the actual party. So I may not be as refined as I wish I could be but I still had a lot of fun and that's all the little me ever wanted.



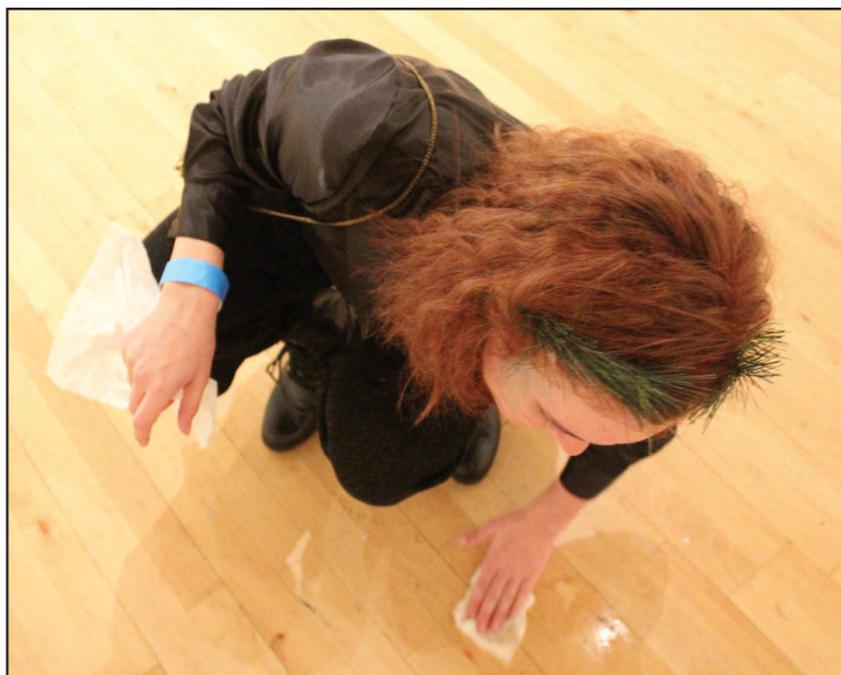
MEGAN FENWICK / THE RIP

Lizette Chavez examines some of the open naturalistic surrealist art work shown inside of the Bakersfield Museum of Arts "poetic" display, at the "Art After Dark" event.



MEGAN FENWICK / THE RIP

Bakersfield local artist, Alex Sarad, demonstrates some of his light art work at the Bakersfield Museum of Arts Gardens with a red moon art light installation set up on the corner of the museum wall for the "Art After Dark" surrealist party event on Oct. 26.



MEGAN FENWICK / THE RIP

Megan Fenwick cleans the floor with a napkin, after a drink was spilled in the museum.